

South Dakota National Guard

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February 10, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SD Army Guard appoints Hoekman to senior enlisted position

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard appointed a Brandon man to the highest ranking enlisted position in the state during a change of responsibility ceremony Saturday, Feb. 7, in Pierre.

State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman replaces State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe as the new state command sergeant major and will now serve as the assistant adjutant general's personal advisor on all enlisted matters for the Army Guard.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Hoekman has a wealth of knowledge and experience that he brings to the position," said Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG. "He has served in three major commands within our state. He holds himself to the highest of standards and is very passionate about serving in uniform. I look forward to working with him as he joins the command team for the South Dakota Army National Guard."

Hoekman becomes the ninth state command sergeant major since the position was first established in the state in 1975.

"The South Dakota Army National Guard has a history of great leadership and I will continue that history in this position," said Hoekman. "I am humbled to have the opportunity to take care of the Soldiers in the South Dakota Army National Guard."

"I will be a 360 degree leader," continued Hoekman. "I will lead south to the Soldiers under my care, I will lead north by influencing those with authority over me, I will lead east and west impacting my peers, but most importantly I will stay humble, yet vigilant, while ensuring my own moral compass needle is centered."

Shoe, a resident of Rapid City, served in the position since February 2013 and retires with more than 25 years of military service – 16 of which was in the National Guard.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Shoe is one of the best noncommissioned officers I have ever worked with," said Griesse, of Shoe's service. "She was without a doubt the right person, in the right place, at the right time. She did a tremendous job as the state command sergeant major for the South Dakota Army National Guard and will be truly missed."

"Command Sgt. Maj. Shoe is truly a caring and a professional Soldier and has kept the high standards that have been set for the organization," added Hoekman. "I appreciate all of her hard work and will continue to move this organization forward."

“Serving as the state command sergeant major for the last two years afforded me an opportunity only seven others have been honored to accomplish before me,” said Shoe, of her time in the position. “I set a goal to visit Soldiers every opportunity I could, in order to feel the pulse of this organization and make better decisions for everyone. I am grateful to have accomplished that goal.”

Hoekman, who has over 29 years of service in the National Guard, will be responsible for assisting and advising Brig. Gen. Griese, as well as advising the state’s senior enlisted leader, State Command Chief Master Sgt. James Welch, on all Soldier issues that affect the enlisted and NCO Corps within the nearly 3,200 members of the Army Guard.

“We talk about getting back to the basics, and I believe if we all lived by the Soldiers Creed we would be in a very good place,” said Hoekman. “It is a template for what to do; it has the Army Values and the Warrior Ethos. These principles define who Soldiers are and who they aspire to become as individuals and as part of a team, the foundation of our organization.”

Hoekman will also observe unit training in all 22 SDARNG communities, attend mobilization and demobilization events, ensure Soldier morale and wellbeing and make certain Soldiers and their families know that all key leaders have their best interests at heart.

Hoekman enlisted into the SDARNG in December 1985 with the 200th Engineer Company as a combat engineer/bridge specialist and attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He obtained secondary occupational specialties as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist with the 200th and went on to serve as motor transport operator with the 1742nd Transportation Company in 1994.

He has served in nearly every key noncommissioned officer position from squad leader to command sergeant major.

In January 2006, he was selected as the first sergeant for the 727th Transportation Company until the unit’s deactivation in September 2007. He then went on to serve as the first sergeant for the 740th Transportation Company. In April 2009, he was selected as the command sergeant major for the 139th Brigade Support Battalion followed by the 109th Regional Support Group in April 2012.

Hoekman’s deployments include service with the 1742nd Transportation Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 2003 to June 2004 and the 139th Brigade Support Battalion during Operation New Dawn in Iraq and Kuwait from June 2011 to April 2012.

Hoekman is a graduate of the United States Sergeants Major Academy, holds a bachelor’s degree from South Dakota State University in sociology and criminal justice and is a graduate of the South Dakota Law Enforcement Academy.

In his civilian life, Hoekman serves as a captain at the Minnehaha County Sheriff’s Office in Sioux Falls and has served in law enforcement for 24 years.

Hoekman and his wife, Marcy, have one son, Zachery.



State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman: The South Dakota Army National Guard appointed State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman to the highest ranking enlisted position in the state during a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 7, 2015, in Pierre, S.D. Hoekman replaces former State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe, who retired in February after serving in the position since February 2013. Hoekman becomes the 9th state command sergeant major since the position was first established in the state in 1975. In this role, he will serve as the assistant adjutant general's personal advisor on all enlisted matters for the Army Guard. (SDNG file photo/Released)



020715-Z-GT719-014: State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman, left, receives a ceremonial saber from Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard, during a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 7, 2015, in Pierre, S.D. Hoekman is appointed to the highest ranking enlisted position in the state and replaces former State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe, who retired in February. Hoekman becomes the ninth state command sergeant major since the position was first established in the state in 1975. In this role, he will serve as the assistant adjutant general's personal advisor on all enlisted matters for the Army Guard. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee/Released)



020715-Z-GT719-030: The South Dakota Army National Guard's State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman addresses Soldiers during a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 7, 2015, in Pierre, S.D. Hoekman replaces former State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe, who retired in February and served in the position since February 2013. He becomes the ninth state command sergeant major since the position was first established in the state in 1975. In this role, he will serve as the assistant adjutant general's personal advisor on all enlisted matters for the Army Guard. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee/Released)



020715-Z-GT719-005: Former State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe addresses South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers during a change of responsibility ceremony Feb. 7, 2015, in Pierre, S.D. Shoe, who retired in February and served in the position since February 2013, is replaced by State Command Sgt. Maj. James Hoekman. Hoekman becomes the ninth state command sergeant major since the position was first established in the state in 1975. In this role, he will serve as the assistant adjutant general's personal advisor on all enlisted matters for the Army Guard. (SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee/Released)

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